



For Immediate Release -- April 28, 2016

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Download: [the ruling with ballot title](#), [full measure](#).

Judge clears Yes for PSU campaign to launch ballot bid

Constitutional challenge dismissed; ballot title granted; 34,164 signatures needed

PORTLAND, Ore. — A Multnomah County judge late yesterday greenlit the Yes for PSU campaign to begin gathering signatures to qualify for the November ballot. The judge last week also [dismissed a challenge](#) to the measure's constitutionality.

To qualify for November's Portland Metro area ballot, the campaign now must collect 34,164 signatures by July 26.

"We're so excited to finally be able to make our case to the voters," said Hanna Eid, a transfer student to PSU and a campaign organizer. "We have to fight for every vote. Higher education is facing an affordability crisis, and the Yes for PSU measure is a golden opportunity."

Yes for PSU addresses the local ramifications of a nationwide higher education funding crisis in a unique and unprecedented way, raising \$40 million a year through a tax paid by businesses instead of workers or property owners. Nowhere else does a business tax directly fund public education.

The money would go strictly toward more teachers; need-based PSU scholarships to local residents; and tutors, advisors and counselors. Not a dime would go to infrastructure or administration.

The Oregon legislature has [dramatically slashed](#) funding for higher education in recent years, ranking our state 46th in the nation in terms of funding for higher education. PSU now receives less state money per degree than any of the state's seven public universities. As a result, tuition has skyrocketed, with nearly 1 in 3 students dropping out of PSU because of cost.

By levying a 0.1% payroll tax — or \$1 for every \$1,000 — on Portland Metro area businesses, the \$40 million yield is the equivalent of the interest on a \$1 billion endowment. If a business has a total payroll of \$1 million, it would pay \$1,000 in taxes, a sum which is tax deductible. Sole proprietorships are exempt, as are any businesses and organizations exempt from the [TriMet tax](#).

The Yes for PSU tax would expire after eight years unless voters renew it. PSU would be subject to independent audits every two years and would also be required to submit progress reports to the public every six months.

Portland State University's mission is to serve the local community. Seventy-nine percent of PSU students are in-state, and 78 percent of in-state students come from the Metro area. Sixty-six percent of PSU grads stay in the region to work, providing the Metro business community with a substantial educated workforce from which to hire.

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For immediate release — May 6, 2016

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Yes for PSU campaign wins early

Dramatic increase in PSU student funding; campaign fueled a surge in public opinion

Portland State University students have won \$25 million a year for scholarships, student support and teachers.

In fewer than three months, the Yes for PSU campaign galvanized thousands of PSU advocates and overwhelming support for the Yes for PSU measure, leading to a collaboration with the business community that will provide a permanent new source of funding for students.

This is a victory for students — even better than if we'd won at the ballot box. We win a permanent funding stream with no expiration date, while avoiding an expensive campaign. We won without a public fight and could not be more excited.”

PSU students need the help: Oregon ranks 46 out of the 50 states in funding for higher education, and PSU receives less funding per student than any other public university in the state. Funds raised must make college more affordable for local students and help them complete their degrees with less debt.

The people who helped the Yes for PSU campaign look forward to supporting this new coalition to deliver much-needed funding for PSU.

The Yes for PSU campaign is grateful for your support. THANK YOU for bring us to victory!

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